

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-68 (Canceled).

Claim 69 (Previously Presented) A method of processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising the steps of:

receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

storing the identification file in a lookup table;

maintaining a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server;

resolving mailpiece information for the mailpiece, wherein the resolving step further comprises the substeps of:

receiving an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

processing the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

transmitting the identification information to the mail processing device;
and

updating the secondary identification code server, wherein the updating step further comprises the substeps of:

generating a data file using the service area table corresponding to the secondary identification code server to identify identification files in the lookup table; and

transmitting the data file to the secondary identification code server.

Claim 70 (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

Claim 71 (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the storing step further comprises:

revising an old identification file in the lookup table with a revised identification file.

Claim 72 (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

Claim 73 (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the file identification code is an ID tag.

Claim 74 (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the file postal code is a POSTNET code.

Claim 75 (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the service area table contains a plurality of postal codes corresponding to the secondary identification code server.

Claim 76 (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the secondary identification code server is a SICS server.

Claim 77 (Original) The method of claim 69, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a delete file message from the mail processing device indicating an identification file to be deleted; and
deleting the identification file to be deleted from the lookup table in response to the delete file message.

Claim 78 (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the resolving step further comprises the substeps of:
connecting to the mail processing device via a telecommunications link;
receiving test data from the mail processing device; and
confirming the test data.

Claim 79 (Original) The method of claim 78, wherein the test data consists of nineteen test mailpiece identification codes.

Claim 80 (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the identification information transmitting step further comprises the substep of:

transmitting the identification file corresponding to the identification code, if the identification code is found in the lookup table.

Claim 81 (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the identification information transmitting step further comprises the substep of:

transmitting the file postal code corresponding to the identification code, if the identification code is found in the lookup table.

Claim 82 (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the identification information transmitting step further comprises the substep of:

transmitting an error message to the mail processing device, if the identification code is not found in the lookup table.

Claim 83 (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the data file is a SICS_ZIP data file.

Claim 84 (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

Claim 85 (Original) The method of claim 84, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

Claim 86 (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the updating step occurs at a predetermined time interval.

Claim 87 (Original) The method of claim 86, wherein the predetermined time interval is twenty minutes.

Claim 88 (Original) The method of claim 69, wherein the updating step occurs when a predetermined number of identification files have been received.

Claim 89 (Original) The method of claim 88, wherein the predetermined number of identification files is twenty thousand.

Claim 90 (Previously Presented) A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

- an identification file receiving component configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

- a storing component configured to store the identification file in a lookup table;

- a maintaining component configured to maintain a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server;

a resolving component configured to resolve mailpiece information for the mailpiece, wherein the resolving component further comprises:

an identification code receiving component configured to receive an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

a processing component configured to process the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

an identification information transmitting component configured to transmit the identification information to the mail processing device; and

an updating component configured to update the secondary identification code server, wherein the updating component further comprises:

a generating component configured to generate a data file using the service area table corresponding to the secondary identification code server to identify identification files in the lookup table; and

a data file transmitting component configured to transmit the data file to the secondary identification code server.

Claim 91 (Original) The system of claim 90, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

Claim 92 (Previously Amended) The system of claim 90, wherein the storing component further includes:

a revising component configured to revise an old identification file in the lookup table with a revised identification file.

Claim 93 (Original) The system of claim 90, wherein the identification code is an ID tag.

Claim 94 (Original) The system of claim 90, wherein the file identification code is an ID tag.

Claim 95 (Original) The system of claim 90, wherein the file postal code is a POSTNET code.

Claim 96 (Original) The system of claim 90, wherein the service area table contains a plurality of postal codes corresponding to the secondary identification code server.

Claim 97 (Original) The system of claim 90, wherein the secondary identification code server is a SICS server.

Claim 98 (Original) The system of claim 90, further comprising:
a delete file message receiving component configured to receive a delete file message from the mail processing device indicating an identification file to be deleted; and

a deleting component configured to delete the identification file to be deleted from the lookup table in response to the delete file message.

Claim 99 (Original) The system of claim 90, wherein the resolving component further includes:

a connecting component configured to connect to the mail processing device via a telecommunications link;

a test data receiving component configured to receive test data from the mail processing device; and

a confirming component configured to confirm the test data.

Claim 100 (Original) The system of claim 99, wherein the test data consists of nineteen test mailpiece identification codes.

Claim 101 (Original) The system of claim 90, wherein the identification information transmitting component further comprises:

an identification file transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file corresponding to the identification code, if the identification code is found in the lookup table.

Claim 102 (Original) The system of claim 90, wherein the identification information transmitting component further comprises:

a file postal code transmitting component configured to transmit the file postal code corresponding to the identification code, if the identification code is found in the lookup table.

Claim 103 (Original) The system of claim 90, wherein the identification information transmitting component further comprises:

an error message transmitting component configured to transmit an error message to the mail processing device, if the identification code is not found in the lookup table.

Claim 104 (Original) The system of claim 90, wherein the data file is a SICS_ZIP data file.

Claim 105 (Original) The system of claim 90, wherein the identification file further includes an image capture time.

Claim 106 (Original) The system of claim 105, wherein the identification file further includes a plurality of status bits that indicate aspects of the identification file.

Claim 107 (Original) The system of claim 90, wherein the updating component operates at a predetermined time interval.

Claim 108 (Original) The system of claim 107, wherein the predetermined time interval is twenty minutes.

Claim 109 (Original) The system of claim 90, wherein the updating component operates when a predetermined number of identification files have been received.

Claim 110 (Original) The system of claim 109, wherein the predetermined number of identification files is twenty thousand.

Claim 111 (Previously Presented) A system for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, comprising:

- means for receiving an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

- means for storing the identification file in a lookup table;

- means for maintaining a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server;

- means for resolving mailpiece information for the mailpiece, wherein the resolving means further comprises:

- means for receiving an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

means for processing the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

means for transmitting the identification information to the mail processing device; and

means for updating the secondary identification code server, wherein the updating means further comprises:

means for generating a data file using the service area table corresponding to the secondary identification code server to identify identification files in the lookup table; and

means for transmitting the data file to the secondary identification code server.

Claim 112 (Previously Presented) A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing mailpiece information by a primary identification code server, the computer readable code comprising:

an identification file receiving module configured to receive an identification file corresponding to a mailpiece from an image control unit, wherein the identification file contains a file identification code and a file postal code;

a storing module configured to store the identification file in a lookup table;

a maintaining module configured to maintain a service area table database with a service area table for a secondary identification code server;

a resolving module configured to mailpiece information for the mailpiece, wherein the resolving module further comprises:

an identification code receiving module configured to receive an identification code from a mail processing device, where the mail processing device obtains the identification code from the mailpiece;

a processing module configured to process the identification code to determine the identification information, using the identification file corresponding to the identification code; and

an identification information transmitting module configured to transmit the identification information to the mail processing device; and

an updating module configured to update the secondary identification code server, wherein the updating module further comprises:

a generating module configured to generate a data file using the service area table corresponding to the secondary identification code server to identify identification files in the lookup table; and

a data file transmitting module configured to transmit the data file to the secondary identification code server.

Claims 113-262 (Canceled).